

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 178087 TOSEC 080093
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB
APPROVED BY PA/M:DONEWBERRY
S/S-O - JTHYDEN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, PA/PRESS, S/S

-----027648 142015Z /46

P 142001Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 178087 TOSEC 080093

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT TOM WICKER OP-ED ARTICLE NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY, JULY 14, HEADED "A SPECTACLE OF FEAR."
2. THE CONVICTION OF ALEKSANDR GINSBURG AND THE TRIAL OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY CONSTITUTE AN ATTACK ON FREEDOM ITSELF. THEY REMIND US ONCE AGAIN THAT THIS SUPPOSED SUPERPOWER, FEARING ITS OWN PEOPLE MORE THAN ANY FOREIGN ADVERSARY, PERMITS THEM NOT EVEN THE MOST LIMITED HUMAN RIGHTS OF BELIEF AND EXPRESSION. BUT THE TRIALS ALSO MAKE FRUSTRATINGLY CLEAR HOW LITTLE THE UNITED STATES CAN DO TO CHANGE THIS DEPRESSING CONDITION, NOT JUST IN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT FOR SO MANY OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE.

-

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 178087 TOSEC 080093

3. WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS ANYWAY? ONE OF OUR MOST CHERISHED DOCUMENTS DEFINED THEM ADMIRABLY--"LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS." LATER, THE BILL OF RIGHTS SPECIFIED SUCH FREEDOMS AS THOSE OF SPEECH AND RELIGION. AND STILL ANOTHER GENERATION ADDED THAT GUARANTEE OF "DUE PROCESS OF LAW" WITHOUT WHICH RIGHTS BECOME EMPTY GENERALITIES.

4. WHATEVER "RIGHTS" MAY BE PROMISED TO SOVIET CITIZENS, THEIR GOVERNMENT PERMITS NO DUE PROCESS TO GUARANTEE THEM; INSTEAD, DUE PROCESS IS BEING MOCKED IN THE SO-CALLED TRIALS OF MR. SHCHARANSKY AND MR. GINZBURG. AS A RESULT, NOT EVEN THE BARRED DOORS OF THE COURTROOMS CAN HIDE THE HYPOCRISY, CRUELTY AND FEAR OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM FROM THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

5. THAT THESE SHAMEFUL PROCEEDINGS WERE PURSUED AT ALL TESTIFIES TO THE DESPERATION WITH WHICH SOVIET OFFICIALS BELIEVE THEY MUST COUNTER DISSENT AND STAMP IT OUT IF POSSIBLE. THEY ARE BOUND TO KNOW THAT SUCH A SPECTACLE WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR CONGRESS, OWING TO AMERICAN REVULSION, TO RATIFY A SENSIBLE SALT AGREEMENT OR TAKE ANY OTHER STEP TO IMPROVE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

6. MOSCOW ALSO MUST KNOW IT IS RISKING SERIOUS MATERIAL LOSSES--FOR EXAMPLE, CANCELLATION OF THE PLANNED EXPORT OF COMPUTER AND OIL DRILLING EQUIPMENT FROM THIS COUNTRY TO THE SOVIET UNION. SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS PUBLICLY DENIED SOVIET ALLEGATIONS THAT MR. SHCHARANSKY WAS A SPY FOR THE C.I.A., AND PERSONALLY APPEALED FOR THE TREASON CHARGE TO BE DROPPED, HIS TRIAL ON PRECISELY THAT CHARGE IS AN ALMOST CALCULATED AFFRONT TO MR. CARTER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 178087 TOSEC 080093

7. BUT IF THEIR DISREGARD OF ALL THESE CONSEQUENCES, NOT TO MENTION THE OPROBRIUM OF THE WORLD, DEMONSTRATES THE SOVIETS' IMPLACABILITY, THAT ONLY UNDERLINES THE NEAR-HELPLESSNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DO ANYTHING EFFECTIVE ABOUT IT.

8. CANCELING THE COMPUTER SHIPMENTS AND OTHER EXCHANGES SEEMS CLEARLY WARRANTED, NOT MERELY AS A REBUKE BUT AS A SUBSTANTIVE STEP THAT MIGHT AT SOME FUTURE TIME GIVE THE SOVIETS GREATER CONCERN FOR AMERICAN REACTION TO THEIR INTERNAL INDECENCIES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORTED VIEW--THAT CANCELING THE SHIPMENT WOULD HURT THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS WITHOUT ALTERING MOSCOW'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY (OR LACK OF ONE)--IGNORES THE SYMULIC POWER OF GESTURES, AND MAY EVEN UNDERESTIMATE SOVIET TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS.

9. NEVERTHELESS, SUCH AMERICAN ACTION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HAVE THE DIRECT EFFECT OF HELPING SOVIET DISSIDENTS NOW, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SOVIETS PROBABLY WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO MAKE SOME BLUSTERY RESPONSE. THE SAME

WOULD BE TRUE OF THE MORE EXTREME ACTION ADVOCATED BY A FEW--THAT THE UNITED STATES BREAK OFF THE SALT NEGOTIA-

TIONS. MOST OF THIS TALK IS PROBABLY FOR VOTER CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES, SINCE SUCH A POSITION SEEMS CLEARLY SELF-DEFEATING.

10. IT IS ALSO IRONIC IN THE EXTREME, IF REALLY PROMPTED BY CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. LIFE IS THE MOST BASIC OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, LISTED FIRST IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. AND LIFE IS THE ULTIMATE CONCERN OF THE ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WITH THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENALS ARE THE GREATEST THREATS TO LIFE IN ALL ITS HISTORY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 178087 TOSEC 080093

11. WHAT SENSE DOES IT MAKE, THEREFORE, TO UREAK THEIR CONNECTION, TENUOUS AS IT IS, ON THIS MOST MOMENTOUS OF ISSUES? AND NO MATTER HOW REPREHENSIBLE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WHO WOULD REALLY BE PENALIZED BY SUCH AN ACT OF FOLLY? THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET PEOPLES, AND ALL OTHERS THREATENED BY NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.

12. THE HARD TRUTH IS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS LITTLE POWER TO AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, CAMBODIA, CHINA, EASTERN EUROPE; BUT IT CAN, AND SHOULD, HOLD UP A MORAL STANDARD TO BE SEEN EVEN WHERE ITS LITERAL POWER DOES NOT RUN. IN OTHER NATIONS--SOUTH AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE--AMERICAN ACTIONS MAY HAVE AT LEAST THE INDIRECT EFFECT OF IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS; AND THESE ACTIONS SHOULD FLOW FROM OUR HERITAGE. IN COUNTRIES HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE UNITED STATES--SOUTH KOREA, THE PHILIPPINES, CHILE--AMERICAN POLICIES CAN HAVE FAR GREATER EFFECT, IF STRONGLY PURSUED.

13. BUT THE UNITED STATES ITSELF IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ARENA OF AMERICAN CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE ONE WHERE THE MOST CAN BE DONE. MILITANT PROTECTION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS, STRINGENT CONCERN FOR DUE PROCESS OF LAW, THE EXTENSION OF EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO ALL CLASSES AND COLORS OF CITIZENS--THESE ARE THE FIRST HUMAN-RIGHTS DUTIES OF AMERICANS, AND IN THE LONG RUN THEIR GREATEST SERVICE EVEN TO ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEKSANDR GINZBURG. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE178087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0720
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabwfi.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ad90773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1999020
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, SHUM, US, UR, NEW YORK TIMES, (WICKER, TOM)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ad90773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014